STAY HOME
STAY SAFE
SIDDHARTA

STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

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MYSURU Friday 10th April 2020
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Visit: www.starofmysore.com

REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
CORONAVIRUS
INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR

Saluting Unsung Coronavirus Warriors

By S.T. Ravikumar

Mysuru, Apr. 10- Sheltered in the safety of our homes and the comfort of our social distancing, we watch and read about them in the newspapers — doctors, epidemiologists, virologists, nurses, pathologists, paramedics, cleaners and emergency workers. These are our new celebrities, the unsung heroes on the frontline of the battle against Coronavirus.

The medical providers on the frontline are the people who can't go home, who risk the health of themselves and their families, to make sure that our families are safe. These are the people who are working day and night, treating and interacting with positive patients of COVID-19.

At the designated COVID-19 Hospital (District Hospital) on KRS Road in Mysuru there are many such Coronavirus Warriors who are treating over 41 positive patients, taking care of their well being and also at the same time preventing themselves from the epidemic. More than 50 medical practitioners, over 75 non-medical professionals and a host of support and cleaning staff are functioning round the clock here.

(See WARRIORS on page 4)

Nurses and paramedical staff in front of the designated COVID-19 Hospital on KRS Road.

- Round-the-clock duty at COVID-19 Hospital on KRS Road
- Hospital declared as Red Zone with tight security
- Doctors, healthcare workers wearing PPEs cannot eat and also drink water for 8 hours
- Food, accommodation and transport for medical and para-medical personnel at hotels and guest houses
- Families can be contacted only over phone
- After the duty at Hospital, personnel have to undergo a 14-day quarantine before going home

To Our Readers

An Apology

Following the publication of the editorial titled ***"Bad apples in the basket"*** in *Star of Mysore* dated April 6, 2020 on *Page-2,* we learn it has hurt the feelings of some of our readers. It was mainly focussed on the spread of the deadly COVID-19.

If it has hurt the sentiments and feelings of our esteemed readers, by our lapse in judgement, *SOM* sincerely regrets and apologises for the same. —**Ed**

PM Modi to address nation tomorrow on lockdown

Modi

New Delhi, Apr. 10 (UNI)- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to address the nation again to announce his decision on whether the Coronavirus lockdown will end on Tuesday. Before the decision, he will meet Chief Ministers via video conference tomorrow.

Sources say the lockdown may be extended but with many changes this time around. Inter-State movement will remain restricted, except for essential services. Schools, colleges and religious institutions are likely to stay closed.

On Wednesday, PM Modi had said by all accounts the lifting of the lockdown "is not possible". "The priority of the Government is to save each and every life. The situation in the country is akin to a 'social emergency', it has necessitated tough decisions and we must continue to remain vigilant," said the PM.

8-year-old among 5 new positive cases in Mysuru

Petition filed in SC for mass house-to-house tests in India

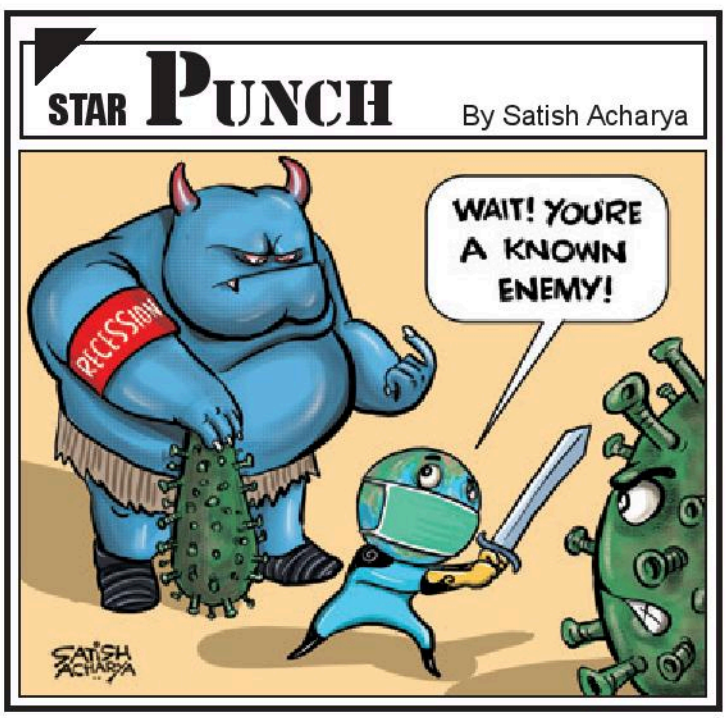
Mysuru, Apr. 10 (BCT)- An eight-year-old child is among five new patients who have tested positive for Coronavirus in Mysuru this morning. This is for the first time an eight-year-old boy has been infected in Mysuru.

Five new positive cases have been reported in Mysuru today taking the total number of positive patients to 41. The total number of positive cases in Karnataka has risen to 207.

P200 is 8-year-old boy and a contact of P159 and P103 (son), P201 is 48-year-old female and a contact of P103 (mother-in-law), P202 is 33-year-old male who is a contact of P111 (Jubilant Generics) company worker, P203 is a 28-year-old female and a contact of P85 (wife) and P204 is a 48-year-old female and a contact of P183 (wife).

Meanwhile, a petition has been filed in Supreme Court this morning seeking its direction to the Centre to carry out mass house-to-house tests for identification, treatment of COVID-19 infected persons in cities and to contain its spread in the country.

House-to-house mass testing would help trace, isolate and treat those infected, resulting in the chain of transmission being broken, the petitioners contended. With the help of such an exercise in "exponential spread" of the virus to "every nook and corner" could be contained, the petitioners submitted.



STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."
Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.
Editor-in-Chief K.B. Ganapathy B.A.; B.L.
Mysuru, Friday 10th April 2020

Lockdown effect: No accidents in city since Mar. 25

Mysuru, Apr. 10 (RK&KS)- Mysuru city, a tourist hub which was abuzz with vehicular traffic, is now an accident-free city with not even a single accident reported from Mar. 25.

In a bid to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a 21-day nationwide lockdown from the midnight of Mar. 24.

The movement of vehicles (except vehicles transporting essential commodities) came to a standstill following the lockdown, resulting in the level of sound and air pollution coming down and even consumption of fuel reducing.

Apart from this, no deaths or injuries due to accidents have taken place and the people are living peacefully.

According to the statistics, 84 accidents were reported in January 2020, 68 in February and 65 up to Mar. 24. The accidents include both fatal and non-fatal ones.

Following the imposition of lockdown in city, not a single accident has taken place, according to the Traffic Police Department records.

This is because of no movement of people and vehicles, Traffic Police said. Though a few vehicles transporting essential commodities, delivering food and grocery to the needy and a few vehicles moving in emergency situation, the number of accidents during the lockdown period is zero, the Police added.

Fatal accidents

The number of fatal accidents that took place in Devaraja, Krishnaraja, Narasimharaja, Siddarthanagar and V.V. Puram Traffic Police Station limits in January is 10, 14 in February and 8 up to Mar. 24.

Non-fatal accidents

Non-fatal accidents that took place in the above Traffic Police Station limits are 74 in January, 54 in February and 67 up to Mar.24, according to sources at Mysuru City Traffic Division.

MCC Control Room staff dismissed for negligent behaviour

Mysuru, Apr. 10 (RK&KS)- Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde has dismissed a woman employee of the MCC Control Room for displaying negligent behaviour towards the public. The MCC Commissioner said that an outsourced employee at the MCC Control Room has been dismissed from the service.

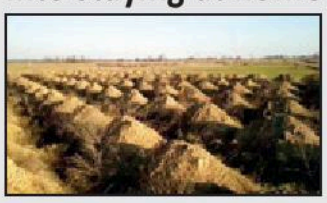
In a press release, the MCC Commissioner has stated that the female staff was not providing suitable replies to the calls from the public related to COVID-19 and had not brought the same to the notice of the officials concerned thus displaying negligent behaviour besides displaying her negligent attitude towards the public. In this background, an enquiry was conducted and after she was found guilty, she was dismissed from service, the release added.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

CEO DISCOVERS GYM: ***With almost all of India under lockdown now, how are India Inc. captains spending their time? Besides finding ways of joining the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, some of them are rediscovering things they had forgotten they had! The Chairman of a diversified group said he had started spending a lot of time in the gym he set up a decade ago in his bungalow but did not have the time to use it even once. "Thanks to all the travelling across the world, I was unable to use my own gym, which is located on a floor different from the living area. After the lockdown, I am making full use of it," he said.*** *—In Business Standard*

NEWS SPARKLERS

City digs hundreds of graves to scare locals into staying at home



Dnipro: The Ukrainian city of Dnipro has so far registered only 13 Coronavirus infections and no fatalities attributed to Covid-19, but the local authorities have already dug over 600 fresh graves, just to be sure.

Unwilling to risk the same kind of insubordination from his constituents, the Mayor of Dnipro has gone to extreme lengths to make sure locals understand the dangers of ignoring social distancing measures. Last week, Mayor Borys Filatov wrote on Facebook that local authorities were preparing for the worst, adding that over 600 new graves have already been dug in in preparation for anticipated deaths.

Dnipro Mayor's spokeswoman, Yulia Vitvitska, confirmed 615 graves are readied and 2,000 body bags prepared for Covid-19 deaths. Mayor Filatov also mentioned that medical workers will be prohibited from performing autopsies on people believed to have died from coronavirus infection.

Batman urges people to fight pandemic by staying indoors

Monterrey: Authorities in the Mexican city of Monterrey have received assistance from a very unlikely source in their efforts to keep people in their homes as part of a social distancing plan to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus.

A real-life Batman wearing the iconic costume and driving a custom version of the Batmobile has been patrolling the city streets and asking people to stay at home. The unidentified man has been spending his days blasting a pre-recorded message from his Batmobile, encouraging people to minimize physical interaction.

"Hey, you! Stay home, try to go out as little as possible and together we will be superheroes against the coronavirus. I can't do this job alone!" the pre-recorded message warns.

HEALTH CAPSULE by Bron Smith

Are Brazil nuts toxic?

Brazil nuts are high in selenium, which is so toxic in high doses that you can easily overdose on Brazil nuts. Eating too many will cause nausea and vomiting. Your hair may become brittle and fall out. An overdose is over 400 MCG, which is only five nuts! One Brazil nut per day is a good way to get an adequate amount of selenium in your diet.

**Health Capsules is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature.*

Mysuru Music University resorts to online classes

Mysuru, Apr. 10- Following the orders from University Grants Commission (UGC) and Higher Education Department regarding students' education during the nationwide COVID-19 lockdown period, Karnataka State Dr. Gangubai Hangal Music and Performing Arts University in Mysuru has already started online classes (Zoom App, WhatsApp, Facebook, YouTube and others) and will be completing the pending syllabus by the first week of May.

Music University VC Prof. Nagesh V. Bettakote held a meeting in this regard with all teaching staff using Zoom App on Apr. 7 and instructed them to take online classes and complete the syllabus on time.

After discussing the pros and cons of conducting online classes and taking information about the ongoing online classes, the VC directed to conduct all the internal exams of the current semester online.

Urging all the students to make use of online classes, the VC also requested everyone to join hands with the Government in the fight against the pandemic.

Online music this evening

Vidushi Dr. R.N. Srilatha will present a vocal recital through facebook live. Interested may visit Ganabharathi Page (https://www.facebook.com/ganabharati) at 6 pm today (Apr. 10).

MGP meeting on COVID-19

Mysuru, Apr. 10- The monthly meeting of Mysore Grahakara Parishat (MGP) will be held on Sunday (Apr. 12) at 4 pm. Since the curfew is in effect, the meeting will be held online. The subject of the meeting is COVID-19 and its various aspects.

Members of the public who are interested in participating in the meeting are requested to send an e-mail to: *mygrapa@gmail.com.* For further details contact Ph: 0821 2515150 or Mob: 9448855199, according to a press release from MGP Secretary.

Really...?

- ***Dark green veggies have more vitamin C when compared to light-coloured veggies.***
- ***Apples stay afloat in water as they are 25 percent air.***
- ***A kiwi has two times the vitamin C present in an orange.***
- ***7000 different kinds of apples are grown all around the globe!***
- ***Pineapples are actually berries and it's ripening can be speeded up by making it stand upside down (leafy side down).***
- ***Horticulturists are of the opinion that banana was the first fruit on earth.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Secretary: *"Doctor the invisible man has come. He says he has an appointment."*

Doctor: *"Tell him I can't see him!"*

Today's Currency Rate

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 75.89
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 94.60
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 20.66
1 Euro	= Rs. 83.04

VOICE OF THE READER

Corona prevention
insists social distancing

Sir,

COVID-19 caused by the Novel Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) has brought difficulties to common man across the globe and restricted their movement at all levels. The complete lockdown of the country could reduce the rate of virus spread considerably, which resulted only in a few hundreds of new cases per day, unlike thousands of new cases being reported daily in many European countries and the United States of America, which are battling with COVID-19.

If we compare the total number of COVID-19 cases and deaths in the world (14.70 lakhs and 86.3 thousands, respectively) and the number of cases and deaths in our country (5,274 cases and 149 deaths, respectively, as on 8th April, 2020), these are highly insignificant. It is really a great achievement in containing the virus spread, especially if we compare the population size of our country and living conditions, hygiene levels with that of other severely affected nations.

Police are trying their best to implement the lockdown to safeguard the public and ensuring free movement of essential things. For this they are finding innovative ways to educate about the importance of lockdown and sending them back.

Medical fraternity is working hard to reduce its impact on the affected people and Governments are trying hard to contain its spread by adopting various methods. Many of them stopped going home to avoid possible spread of the virus to their near and dear or neighbours.

However, it is very unfortunate that even now many educated people are not following social distancing when they are out for purchasing the essentials. It is feared that virus can easily spread with such action if any one of them is carrying the Coronavirus in them, especially when reports are out with COVID-19 in asymptomatic cases.

Many youths are seen riding triples. There are photos both in print media and in news channels showing even ladies moving triples along with several children. This shows the careless attitude of such citizens.

Unless we follow the social distancing very strictly, there is every chance of increasing the number of COVID-19 cases forcing the Government to extend the lockdown for many more weeks to come. If people wish to come out of the lockdown at the earliest, it is mandatory to follow the guidelines issued by the Government, like staying at home and maintaining the social distance, when they come out for any exigencies.

—Dr. S.V.N. Vijayendra
Roopanagar
9.4.2020

Students travel extra mile to get
their quota of Mid-day Meal ration

Mysuru, Apr.10 (RKB&DM)- With schools shut on account of COVID-19 lockdown, the Education Department has distributed ration (rice and dal) meant for Mid-day Meal Scheme for the 21-day period to students as an alternative measure.

While some students received their quota at their doorsteps others who had left their homes were asked to pick up their ration at their schools.

There are a total of 2,26,000 school students in the district, including Government, aided, unaided and private schools, studying in classes from 1 to 10.

While each student from 1st to 5th std. is given ration at a quantity of 100 gm rice and 50 gm dal per day, every student from 6th to 10th is given 150 gm rice and 75 gm dal per day.

ISKCON was providing food to 18,000 children in the district under Mid-day Meal Scheme and following the lockdown, ISKCON has returned the ration that it had in stock, to the schools to which it was serving, for distribution among the students. Likewise in other schools where Mid-day Meal workers used to prepare food out of rice and dal supplied by Food and Civil Supplies Department, the Mid-day workers resorted to home delivery to available students.

DDPI Dr. Panduranga said that 95 percent of the school students have been distributed rice and dal for the 21-day period (Mar.21 to Apr.11) during which schools were supposed to function while the rest five percent were asked to come to the school along with their teachers to collect the ration. During distribution, it was ensured that students maintained social distancing, he added.

Three 'Disinfectant Tunnels' launched at APMC Market

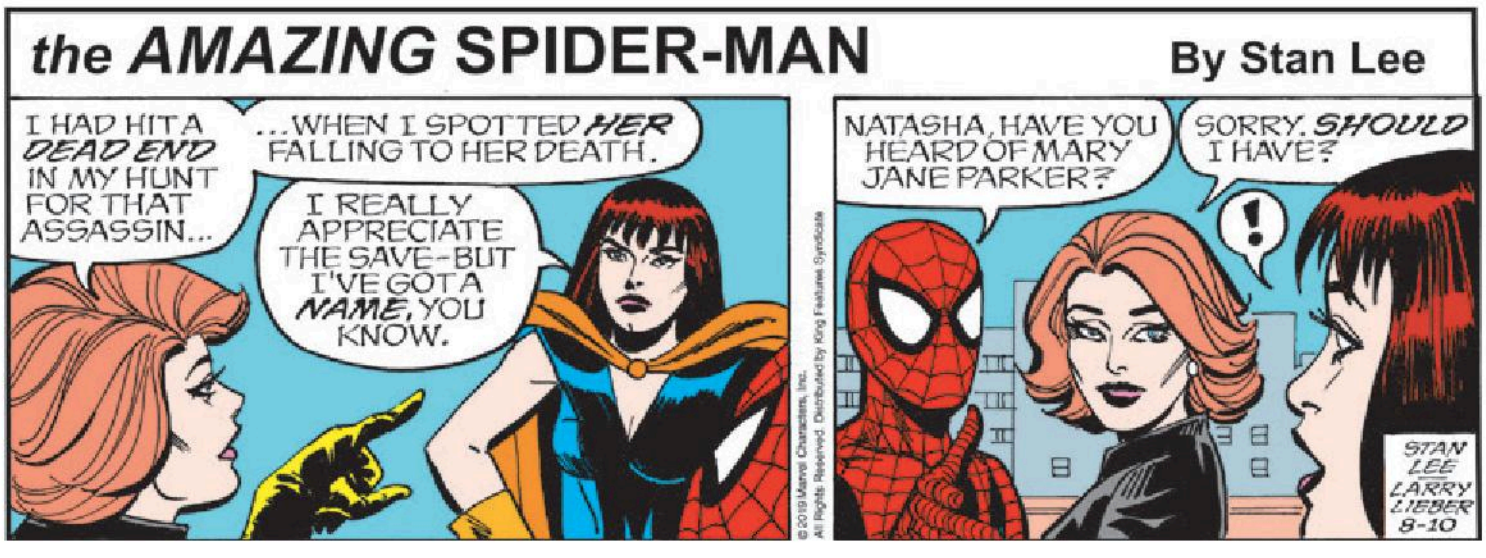
Mysuru, Apr. 10 (MK&KS)- In a bid to prevent the spread of Coronavirus, three 'Disinfectant Tunnels' that are installed at separate places in Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Market on Mysuru-Nanjangud Road were launched recently.

The disinfectant tunnels have been installed by the Mysuru Zilla and Taluk Panchayat and Hosahundi Gram Panchayat in collaboration with APMC to protect the health of shopkeepers, labourers, farmers and buyers.

Speaking to *SOM*, Taluk Panchayat Executive Officer Krishnakumar said that thousands of people were coming to APMC and the disinfectant tunnels have been installed to prevent the spread of Coronavirus and urged the shopkeepers, labourers and buyers to use these disinfectant tunnels compulsorily.

He further said that sprayers installed in the tunnels would spray Sodium Hypochlorite solution on those passing through the tunnels which would help prevent the virus from spreading for two hours.

Tahsildar Rakshit, Hosahundi Gram Panchayat's Panchayat Development Officer (PDO) Satish, APMC Market Vice-President Javarappa and others were present on the occasion.


the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
By Stan Lee
I HAD HIT A DEAD END IN MY HUNT FOR THAT ASSASSIN...
...WHEN I SPOTTED HER FALLING TO HER DEATH.
I REALLY APPRECIATE THE SAVE-BUT I'VE GOT A NAME, YOU KNOW.
NATASHA, HAVE YOU HEARD OF MARY JANE PARKER?
SORRY. SHOULD I HAVE?
!
STAN LEE
LARRY LIEBER
8-10
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Outsourced workers at K.R. Hospital continue to serve under scare

Mysuru, Apr.10 (RK&DM)- Hundreds of outsourced workers serving at K.R. Hospital continue to work amidst Coronavirus scare. Over 70 security guards, 80 house-keeping staff (men and women), 50 sweepers (ayahs) and 60 ward boys are working round-the-clock at K.R. Hospital in three shifts while there are 80 house-keeping staff and 30 security guards at adjoining Cheluvamba Hospital, 80 house-keeping staff and 70 security guards at MMC&RI and its student hostels and 60 housekeeping staff and 15 security personnel at PKTB Sanatorium on KRS Road.

All these workers are on contract, sent by outsourcing agencies. But the deadly Coronavirus scare has resulted in 30 percent of them abstaining from duty due to various reasons.

While several workers are prevented by senior members at their own homes, some others are stopped from entering their villages and a few others due to non-availability of transport.

The villagers defend their decision of disallowing K.R. Hospital workers claiming that with the Hospital treating COVID-19 patients earlier, the chances that they (workers) may be carrying the virus cannot be entirely ruled out.

The absence of 30 percent of outsourced workers has become a cause of worry not only for the outsourcing agencies but to the Hospital as well as cleaning and maintenance works have taken a hit. Even though the K.R. Hospital has introduced pick-up and drop facility, there is no significant improvement in the attendance, according to Hospital authorities.

From 1,500 patients to just 50, K.R. Hospital looks deserted

Mysuru, Apr.10 (RK&DM)- The K.R. Hospital in city, one of the largest in the State, which was buzzing with patients, their attendants, doctors and staff throughout the day before the outbreak of COVID-19, now wears a deserted look, with hardly a few patients. The Hospital has put up a notice board at its entrance which asks the patients not to visit the hospital except for medical emergencies.

According to Medical Superintendent Dr. Nanjundaswamy, all surgeries, barring emergency operations and surgical procedures have been stopped after COVID-19 Ward was set up in the Hospital a couple of weeks ago. Even though positive patients have been shifted to the COVID-19 Hospital on KRS Road, surgeries at K.R. Hospital continue to be suspended for now.

Also, the OPD (Out Patient Department) too has been temporarily closed and only serious cases are being attended as the Hospital has deputed most of its doctors, para-medical staff and PG students to the COVID-19 Hospital.

Dr. Nanjundaswamy said that there were only 50 inpatients right now at the Hospital, which has 1,050 beds. On an average, there will be over 1,500 patients daily and sometimes in the absence of beds, patients are made to sleep on the floor.

Over 95 percent of regular medical faculty and para-medical personnel are on duty and most of them are attending work at the COVID-19 Hospital. However, there is a significant drop in the attendance of outsourced workers which can be attributed to certain factors such as lockdown and non-availability of public transport.

On the preventive and safety measures at the K.R. Hospital, Dr. Nanjundaswamy said that a disinfection tunnel has been installed at the entrance of the Hospital and all staff, patients, their attendants and public are required to compulsorily pass through this tunnel. Also, all the personnel have been provided face masks, gloves and sanitisers.

Saluting Unsung
Coronavirus Warriors

(Continued from page 1)

These men and women —professors, assistant professors, post-graduates, home surgeons, lab technicians and nurses — work in three shifts of eight hours each under stringent procedures and are drawn from the Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, Department of Health and Family Welfare and K.R. Hospital from the departments of medicine, surgery, anaesthesiology, pathology and radiology, sources told *Star of Mysore*.

PPEs must

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is a must for these staff and they are protected from head to toe. PPEs usually consist of standard precautions — gloves, mask, gown, face protection, goggles and mask or face shield, head cover and rubber boots. Plus there is repeated and consistent use of sanitisers. These PPEs cost Rs. 1,750 per set and cannot be reused.

No food, water for 8 hours

The staff treating positive patients in shifts cannot eat or even drink water for eight hours once they wear the PPEs. And even if they remove one of the PPEs, they are not allowed to re-wear the same. If a doctor or a nurse or a paramedic completes one eight-hour shift, they are not immediately assigned to another shift. They are given a break of 16 hours (two shifts) and then put on duty, sources said.

The medical and paramedical personnel are housed in certain guest houses and hotels at various parts of the city and free accommodation, food and transport are provided. They cannot go home and each staff has been assigned work schedules for a fortnight.

Family contact only over phone

They work in batches and once their duty schedules are over, they are put under mandatory 14-day quarantine. They are allowed to go home only if their swab tests turn negative, sources explained. Families are, however, allowed to be contacted on phone. The duty charts are prepared and protocols are listed by a team of experts comprising District Health Officer, Dean of Mysore Medical College and Research Institute, surgeons and other authorities.

The healthcare professionals are actively supported by a dedicated team of cleaning professionals who too wear PPEs to clean the wards. Over 80 percent of doctors at K.R. Hospital have been deputed to the COVID-19 Hospital.

Destroying used PPEs

A strict procedure is followed to destroy the PPEs discarded by the medical and other staff at COVID-19 Hospital. An incinerator has been set up to burn the discarded PPEs. Giant washing machines have been installed inside the four vacant buildings at the COVID-19 hospital for the staff to wash their clothes and ironing facility has also been provided. The entire hospital campus has been declared as Red Zone amidst tight 24x7 Police security.

I am raring to meet my family, says COVID-19 Hospital nurse

Expressing happiness over the arrangements by the District Administration, a nurse from Brindavan Layout, who is serving at the COVID-19 Hospital on KRS Road, told *Star of Mysore* that they were given special treatment. "Hygienic food, good accommodation, clean surroundings and other facilities have been provided. Apart from treating positive patients round-the-clock, we too have to mandatorily follow strict procedure so that we don't get infected," she said.

"We interact closely with patients and make them comfortable giving them medicines and food. Their health is under constant watch and at the same time, we are also taking precautions," the nurse said and added that she has to work in shifts till Apr. 14. "After mandatory 14-day quarantine, I am allowed to go home. I am raring to meet my family," she said.

Obituary

M. Parameshwari Dayal

Channapatna, Apr. 10 - M. Parameshwari Dayal (83), of *Dayal Sweets* at Channapatna and a long time resident of Mysuru, passed away on Apr. 2 here.

He leaves behind his wife Mitilesh, one son, three daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Parameshwari Dayal was the son of late Munshilal of Sri Krishna Bhavan in Mysuru, who later established Gayathri Bhavan Hotel and Chamundeshwari Bhavan, which were taken care by the deceased. Last rites were performed at Channapatna, according to sources.

A warrior of a different kind

Student from Meghalaya takes on a mission to feed stray dogs

Mysuru, Apr. 10 (MTY&AM)- It has been 17 days since Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced nationwide lockdown. This meant people staying indoors, which they are.

Mahatma Gandhi's quote reads, "The greatness of a nation can be judged by the way its animals are treated." And in a country like India, many animals are considered to be the celestial vehicles of Gods, including dogs. The lucky ones do find a home for themselves and the rest are strays.

Amidst the Coronavirus outbreak, all of us humans are well-stocked and well-fed and are living in the comforts of our homes. But who is to care for the stray dogs whose source of food were hotels, roadside food carts and people who now and then would feed them biscuits. With no hotels open and hardly people on the roads, the plight of these four-legged creatures is disheartening.

Here is a Corona warrior of a different kind, the one caring for these stray dogs, coming out of her house, risking herself and ensuring food for the dogs in different parts of the city. She is Monika Kharsanchai, a native of Meghalaya, currently pursuing her final year MSW at JSS College, Ooty Road and a resident of Dattanagar in city. Till date, she has fed around 368 stray dogs.

Monika Kharsanchai

Speaking to *Star of Mysore,* Monika said, "We humans can demand food and get it. But what about these mute animals, which also need food to survive? Before the lockdown, these stray dogs used to get some food through bakeries, hotels, or people who would feed biscuits or some leftovers. But now, with everything closed, it is our duty to care for these creatures. I started feeding dogs in different parts of the city during evening from Mar. 24 with money from my own pocket. Then, I approached People for Animals (PFA), which provided me with 12 kgs Pedigree (Dog food). Two of my friends have also contributed generously towards this."

"I make about 5 kgs of rice every day into which I mix Parle-G biscuits and Pedigree. Some dogs don't eat Pedigree that is why I mix it with rice and biscuits to ensure good nutrition. Then, I load the food into a bucket, carry around 8 to 10 bowls and feed strays, between 7 pm and 9.30 pm in Dattanagar, Chamundipuram, Ballal Circle, Gunduraonagar and en route to any dogs or cats I find. I place the bowls, put the food and once the dogs are fed, I clean the bowls and go to the next location. Till date, from Mar. 24 to Apr. 8, I have fed 368 dogs. I don't care much about the cost," Monika says with a lot of contentment.

"The dogs, like us humans, have the right to live and survive. So, here is a sincere request to all of you to please feed biscuits or some leftovers to stray dogs in your neighbourhood," she urges.

'Campus Companions' are fed too

Mysuru, Apr. 10 (BNR)- Two SJCE students, who are busy with online classes that the Institution is providing, have a reason to visit their campus every day even when the institution is shut. They come there to feed the hungry dogs.

As the educational institutions are closed for long time now, stray dogs which used to get food from the eateries in the SJCE campus and around the premises are starving with no students to feed them.

Sumukh Bharath

Manisha

Sumukh Bharath and Manisha, 4th year students of Construction Technology and Management, SJCE, Mysuru, are making sure that their campus companions are not left hungry.

Speaking to *SOM,* Sumukh said: "There are about 30-35 dogs in the College campus. Since there is scarcity of food to them due to closure of College, we started to feed them from last week."

Asked about their expenses, he said: "We require at least 7-8 kg of dog food at once. Initially, we did it ourselves, feeding them once in a week but as lockdown situation might continue and to keep our initiative going, we requested people to support us through social media and we got good response to continue."

"We had planned for two times a week but with increasing number of contributors we are planning to feed them on alternate days till May end," they added.

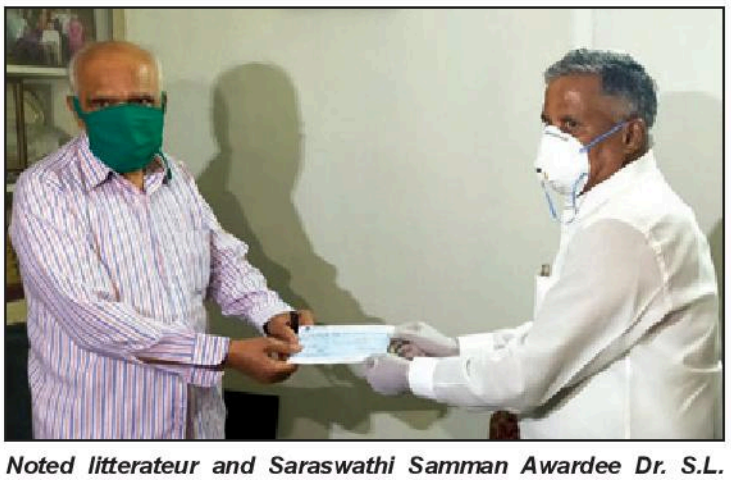
Donations pour in to combat COVID-19

Mysuru, Apr. 10 (KS) - In a bid to help the State Government fight COVID-19, donations from writers, politicians and individuals are pouring in to the PM and Chief Minister's Relief Fund from city.

MLC Sandesh Nagaraj donated Rs. 1 crore from his MLC Fund and his one month's salary of Rs. 1 lakh towards CM's Relief Fund to Minister V. Somanna on Thursday as MP Pratap Simha, former Mayor Sandesh Swamy, N. Manjesh, Corporator Satvik, City BJP President Srivatsa, BJP leader B.P. Manjunath and others look on.

Jain Brothers of Prakash Jewellers, Mysuru, donating a cheque for Rs. 30 lakh to Minister Somanna towards PM CARES Fund. Also 51 cots were donated to the COVID Hospital in city.

Former Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) Member Dr. B.S. Krishnaprasad donated his one month pension of Rs. 66,500 to Minister V. Somanna.



Noted litterateur and Saraswathi Samman Awardee Dr. S.L. Bhyrappa handing over a cheque for Rs. 1 lakh to Minister V. Somanna on Thursday.

Telangana woman rides 1,400-km to bring back her son stranded in Andhra Pradesh

Hyderabad, Apr. 10 - A 48-year-old woman in Telangana rode nearly 1,400 km on a scooter for over three days amid the nationwide lockdown to bring her son who was stranded at Nellore in the neighbouring Andhra Pradesh.

Razia Begum, a headmistress at a Government School in Nizamabad, about 200 kms from Hyderabad, set out on the arduous journey on Monday morning armed with local Police permission. She rode solo to Nellore and returned with her 19-year old son Nizamuddin on Wednesday evening.

"It was a difficult journey on a small two-wheeler for a woman. But the determination to bring my son back overtook all my fears. I packed rotis and they kept me going. It was fearsome in the nights with no traffic movement and no people on roads," Razia Begum said.

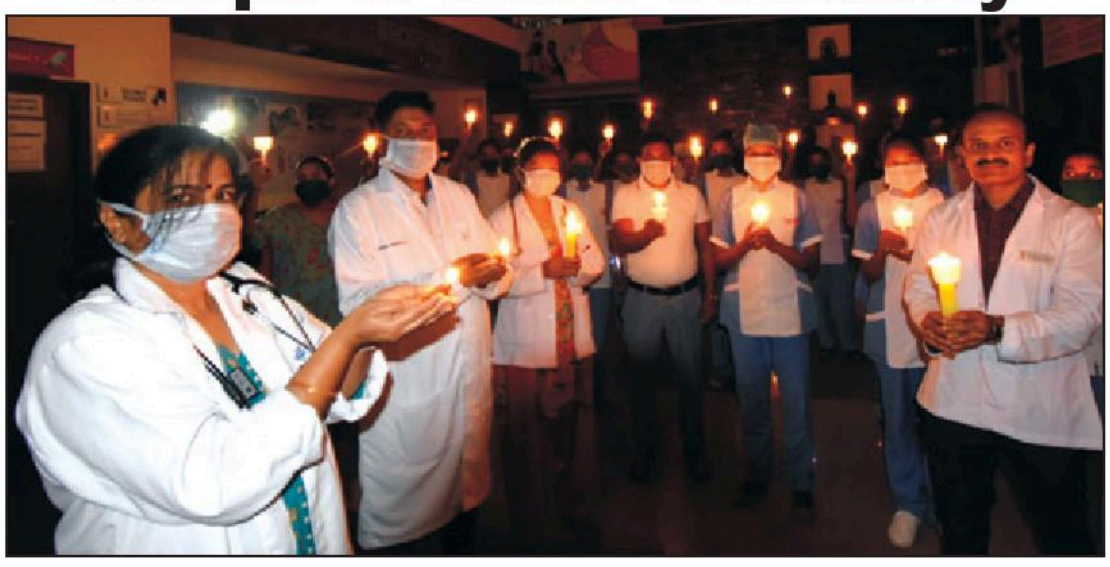
Razia Begum, who lost her husband 15 years ago, lived with her two sons, an engineering graduate and Nizamuddin, who aspires to become a doctor. Nizamuddin had gone to Rahamatabad in Nellore on Mar. 12 to drop his friend and stayed back there. Meanwhile, the lockdown was announced following Coronavirus outbreak and he could not return.

Razia Begum decided to fetch him herself. After initially considering taking a car, she discarded the idea and chose her two-wheeler.

On the morning of Apr. 6, she began the journey and reached Nellore the next day afternoon. She left for home town on the same day along with her son and reached Bodhan on Wednesday evening.

She packed 'rotis' for the road ahead and rode on, making stops at fuel stations and quenching her thirst at certain points along the way.

Cauvery Hospital staff light lamps to show solidarity



Cauvery Heart & Multi-Specialty Hospital Chairman Dr. G.R. Chandrashekar along with Managing Director Dr. Sarala Chandrashekar, doctors, nurses and paramedical staff, lit lamps and candles to show solidarity following the call by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Apr. 5.

The office-bearers of Sri Krishnarajendra Co-operative Bank Ltd., Mysuru, donating a cheque for Rs. 1.5 lakh towards the CM's Relief Fund on Wednesday.

Akshaya Patra Foundation provides food, grocery kits to migrant workers

Till date 37,28,985 cooked meals served and 1,91,320 grocery kits delivered

Mysuru, Apr. 10 (BCT)- Bengaluru-based Akshaya Patra Foundation that is striving to eliminate classroom hunger by implementing the Mid-day Meal Scheme in Government Schools has stepped in to provide relief to COVID-19 victims by providing food and grocery kits to thousands of people.

Since the COVID-19 crisis, The Akshaya Patra Foundation, in close coordination with State Governments and District Administrations, has stepped in to provide relief across the country. The Foundation is utilising its mega kitchens to feed people.

By adhering to all safety and hygiene measures, Akshaya Patra has begun its relief service by providing meal or dry ration support to people in Karnataka, Rajasthan, Gujarat, National Capital Region, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. Till date 37,28,985 cooked meals have been served and 1,91,320 grocery kits have been delivered.

The kits that are being distributed contain Sona Masoori rice (5 kg), tur dal (1 kg), oil (0.5 litre), sambar and rasam powder, spices, salt, soap, vegetables which have a long shelf-life such as potatoes and pumpkins. The food is sufficient for a family of four for a week. A single person can use the kit for 21 days and one kit can serve 42 meals.

In Karnataka, Karnataka Labour Department has joined hands with the Foundation to distribute food items. Over 700 Civil Defence personnel are deployed to prepare food and per day, over 7,000 boxes are being prepared in Bengaluru.

"At this time of COVID-19 lockdown situation, there are many migrant labourers and daily-wage earners who are severely affected. So the Government asked us (Foundation) to serve meals in partnership with them and supply meals in hunger relief centres in various parts," Bharatarshabha Dasa, Regional President, Akshaya Patra Foundation, Delhi, told reporters here.

"We had the facility as the schools are shut and partnered with the Government to serve the meals to the people in need. It is an important social cause as the whole country is in crisis and there is a need to serve food," he said. Dasa said they were moved by words of a migrant labourer who said that 'before COVID-19, hunger will kill us'.

Many personalities have volunteered to provide kits. They include Infosys Founder Narayana Murthy and his wife who sponsored 1.5 lakh kits and Bollywood celebrity Hrithik Roshan who facilitated 1.2 lakh meals.

Members of CII Young Indians-Mysuru donate blood

Mysuru, Apr.10- Following publication of a news item on shortage of blood in Blood Banks *(SOM* dated Apr. 3), the members of CII Young Indians, Mysuru, donated blood to the needy patients. This noble initiative was led by Bharath Devarajappa.

The reason attributed was that donors were not being able to visit the place of donation due to the COVID-19 lockdown.

Around 30 members donated blood to K.R. Hospital Blood Bank as part of their continued support to the needy and nation-building activities.

They also donated necessary sanitation items to quarantined patients at the COVID Hospital.

Dr. Manjunath, Pradeep, Nikhil, Bharath, Rahul, Rohan, Manasa, Indu, Chiranth, Aruna, Kiran & others donated blood and received appreciation certificate from K.R. Hospital.

Anyone interested in donating blood can contact Bharath on Mob: 98862-18553, according to a press release.

Online passes to be issued for transportation of essentials

Mysuru, Apr.10 (RK&DM)- MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hedge has said that the MCC will issue online passes to traders for distribution of essential commodities such as groceries, grains, fruits and vegetables and medicines. Likewise, passes will be issued to organisations and donors who come forward for distributing essential items to the poor and the needy, for which they should apply in the required format which can be downloaded from the website: *https//docs.google.com*

Financial Censorship: Indian Newspaper Society reacts

New Delhi, Apr. 10- The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) on Wednesday urged Congress President Sonia Gandhi to withdraw her suggestion to the Government to impose a two-year ban on media advertisements by the Government and Public Sector Undertakings. "Such a proposal tantamounts to financial censorship," the Society said in a statement on Thursday.

The Congress President had on Tuesday given Prime Minister Narendra Modi five suggestions to step up the battle against the Coronavirus. One of them was to stop advertising in print, electronic and radio. The Association of Radio Operators and the News Broadcasters' Association have already issued statements criticising the suggestion. The INS also lent its support to this demand.

The amount of money spent by Government on advertising is a small amount as far as Government spend is concerned. Moreover, print is the only industry, which has a wage board and the Government decides how much the employees should be paid. This being the only industry where market forces don't decide salaries, the Government has a responsibility towards the industry.

In the age of fake news and distortion, "Print is the best platform to get news and views directly across to the people in every nook and corner of the country, for both — the Government and for Opposition", said Mary Paul, Secretary General, INS.

At a time like this when media personnel are risking their lives and bringing news on the pandemic situation, the suggestion of the Congress President is deeply disturbing and demotivating for the entire media industry, it said, asking the Congress Chief to withdraw the suggestion.

Waste collected from houses under quarantine scientifically disposed of

Mysuru, Apr. 10 (KS)- Following directions from the Director of the Directorate of Municipal Administration on Mar. 30 regarding action to be taken while collecting waste from quarantined houses in city, the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) has taken steps to collect and dispose of waste scientifically.

In a press release, MCC Commissioner Gurudatta Hegde has stated that the waste, which is being collected from houses under quarantine, is being considered as Bio-Medical Waste and the MCC has deployed nine separate vehicles to collect the said waste which is being transported to the Common Bio-Medical Waste Processing Unit.

He has also stated that Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits have been provided to nine Pourakarmikas and nine drivers and added that all the vehicles that are transporting waste are sprayed with Hypochlorite Solution and then cleaned daily. The MCC Commissioner further said that the waste collected from quarantined houses are buried inside a deep pit as per the instructions from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Do not dispose of face masks with other waste

Gurudatta Hedge said that people are displaying negligent attitude and are disposing face masks with other waste, on roadsides and public places which would pollute the environment and also prove dangerous to others by spreading COVID-19. Hence, waste from non-quarantine houses — face masks, gloves etc. has been considered as Household Harmful Waste. He has asked the residents to wrap face masks and gloves in separate paper and hand it over to Pourakarmikas and not mix it with other waste. Action would be initiated against offenders, he added.

MP allays fears of Tobacco growers

Mysuru, Apr.10 (RKB&DM)- With the tobacco auction markets at Periyapatna and Hunsur shut down due to lockdown, Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Simha said that the tobacco growers would not be let down and their produce will be purchased once the lockdown ends.

Speaking to presspersons at Jaladarshini Guest House here this morning, Simha allayed fears of the farmers who are a worried lot with 2.5 million kgs of tobacco left unsold in Periyapatna taluk alone.

Pointing out that Hunsur, Periyapatna, H.D. Kote, K.R. Nagar taluks in Mysuru district and Arakalgud taluk in Hassan district constitute the tobacco growing belt of the state, he said that the Tobacco auction season usually commences in the month of September and concludes in March the following year.

But due to COVID-19 pandemic, the auction market had to be closed following the lockdown, with Periyapatna bearing the brunt of the closure as 2.5 million kgs remaining unauctioned, he said.

But the farmers need not get disheartened as the auction market will reopen once the lockdown ends, he said and appealed the farmers to resume tobacco farming as Mysuru district has received good rainfall in the past few days.

Tobacco Board officials Manjunath and Sai were present.

COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	3,428
Persons isolated in home for 14 days	:	1,836
Persons isolated in hospital	:	41
Persons completed 14-day isolation	:	1,556
Total samples tested	:	401
Samples found negative	:	363
Total active positive cases	:	41
Persons cured / discharged	:	1
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total active positive cases in Karnataka	:	207
Persons cured / discharged	:	28
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	6
Total active positive cases in India	:	5,709
Persons cured / discharged	:	504
Death toll so far in India	:	199

(NOTE: FIGURES TILL 2 PM)

COVID-19 District Emergency Control Room

The Mysuru District Emergency Control Room for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is functional 24x7 and has a team of operators and medical professionals who are working in shifts. All related queries will be handled professionally and necessary guidance will be provided to all callers, according to Mysuru DC.

Mysuru Helpline numbers
1077 or 0821-2423800
Karnataka Helpline number: 104
Central Helpline number:
011-23978046
Email: ncov2019@gmail.com

GOOD HEALTH IS NOW JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY
Our Doctors are now available for telephonic consultation and counseling to address all your health related queries. Contact any of our expert Doctors listed below.
Name of Doctors | Mobile No.
Dr. Beena M. D. | 9538367282
Dr. Manasa | 9741513392
Dr. Shalini | 9886600552
Dr. Shruthi | 8848044264
Dr. Rajesh A. Udapudi | 9686677218
Dr. Satish Pai | 8073822295
Dr. Madhusudan B. G. | 9986284748
• Pre-booking facility for rejuvenation and detoxification after lockdown.
• OPD services are rescheduled from 9 am to 1 pm on all weekdays. Pharmacy is functional during OPD timings.
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